



General Assembly

January Session, 2009

Raised Bill No. 6411

LCO No. 3188

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Referred to Committee on Select Committee on Children

Introduced by:
(KID)

***AN ACT CONCERNING REDUCTION IN CHILD POVERTY AND
INVESTMENT IN PREVENTION.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2009*) (a) The Department of Social
2 Services shall work with community agencies and organizations that
3 serve children and families to establish an emergency response system
4 to meet the basic needs of children and families. The department shall
5 work with the Child Poverty and Prevention Council, established
6 under section 4-67x of the general statutes, to develop protocols for the
7 emergency response system.

8 (b) The emergency response system shall (1) increase access to
9 safety net programs including, but not limited to, food stamps, WIC,
10 Care 4 Kids, heating and rental assistance, eviction prevention services,
11 and free and reduced breakfast and lunch programs; (2) establish
12 multiple sites for enrollment in such programs; (3) identify cost saving
13 measures to prevent homelessness and increase housing stability; (4)
14 identify regulations and procedures to be streamlined to increase
15 access to such programs; and (5) track the impact of such programs on
16 children, youth and families.

17 (c) The department shall maximize federal funding opportunities
18 including, but not limited to, the following: (1) Federal funds available
19 to this state pursuant to the food stamp employment and training
20 program, authorized under the federal Food Stamp Act of 1977, as
21 amended from time to time, from the United States Department of
22 Agriculture to match funds expended on behalf of food stamp
23 recipients by eligible food stamp employment and training providers
24 for employment and training activities that qualify for such matching
25 funds under federal law and regulation; and (2) any federal initiatives
26 related to fatherhood, job training and child care services.

27 (d) The department shall report to the select committee of the
28 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children, in
29 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,
30 regarding its progress in mitigating the negative impact of the
31 recession on children, youth and families.

32 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2009*) (a) The Secretary of the Office of
33 Policy and Management shall identify long-term cost savings for
34 prevention services provided to children, youth and families as
35 presented in the Governor's prevention budget pursuant to section 4-
36 67v of the general statutes. The secretary shall reallocate expenditures
37 to achieve the state goal, as described in subdivision (2) of said section
38 4-67v, of at least ten per cent of the total recommended appropriations
39 for each budgeted state agency that provides prevention center
40 services for children, youth and families being allocated for prevention
41 services.

42 (b) The secretary shall (1) compare budget allocations for special
43 education services and services aimed at the prevention of conditions
44 including, but not limited to, child abuse, low birth weight, lead
45 poisoning, diabetes, developmental and cognitive delays, and juvenile
46 crime with the cost of such services; (2) analyze expenditures by the
47 Department of Children and Families for children in crisis with
48 expenditures for prevention services that promote competent

49 parenting and the development of socially and emotionally healthy
50 children; and (3) identify expenditures for prevention services in the
51 following areas: (A) Maternal and child health and safety; (B) child
52 care; (C) school readiness; (D) child literacy; (E) parenting; and (F)
53 crisis avoidance.

54 (c) The secretary shall employ information described in subsection
55 (b) of this section in deficit reduction strategy and planning to help
56 reduce the state deficit.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2009</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2009</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To reduce child poverty and invest in prevention services while reducing spending for children, youth and families in crisis.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]